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No. 89-80

IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

October Term, 1989

LEON KATZ, ROBERT A. WRIGHT, JOHN F. RAUHAUSER, JR., WILLIAM E. PFADT, On Their Own Behalf And On Behalf Of All Others Similarly Situated,

Petitioners,

v.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,

Respondent.

BRIEF OF THE PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION AS AMICUS CURIAE IN SUPPORT OF THE PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
INTEREST OF AMICUS CURIAE	1
WHY THE PETITION SHOULD BE GRANTED	2
CONCLUSION	3

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Pursuant to Rule 36 of the Rules of Court, The Philadelphia Bar Association respectfully submits this *amicus curiae* brief in support of the petition for a writ of *certiorari* filed by Leon Katz, Robert A. Wright, John F. Rauhauser, Jr., William E. Pfadt, on their own behalf and on behalf of all others similarly situated. The writ should be granted because this case involves important questions of constitutional law affecting the administration of justice and because the issues raised in this case have been repeatedly litigated over the last ten years.

INTEREST OF AMICUS CURIAE THE PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION

The Philadelphia Bar Association (the "Association") sub-

mits this brief as *amicus curiae* in support of the petitioners, The Honorables Leon Katz, Robert A. Wright, John F. Rauhauser, Jr., and William E. Pfadt, on their own behalf and on behalf of all others similarly situated.

The Association is a professional organization consisting of and representing approximately ten thousand attorneys, judges, and other legal professionals associated with the practice of law in the County of Philadelphia. It is the Association's function to serve the professional interests of its members, including the judiciary, and the interests of the population whom those members represent. As such, the Association's constituency includes not only lawyers and judges but also any individuals who are or who may in the future come into contact with the judicial system.

The Association has a clear and overriding interest in the quality, competence, maturity, and fitness of the judges before whom its members practice. The quality of judging in the courts of Pennsylvania directly affects the ability of lawyers to represent their clients zealously and effectively as is their professional duty. It also affects their ability to assure their clients with confidence that the judicial system will serve the interests of justice. Finally, ensuring a qualified, capable and skilled state bench serves the interest of the people of this Commonwealth in seeing that their laws are applied fairly and impartially.

WHY THE WRIT SHOULD BE GRANTED

The Association adopts the views and arguments presented in the briefs of the petitioners and of *amicus curiae*, the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, The Philadelphia Bar Association respectfully requests that this Court grant a writ of *certiorari*.

Respectfully submitted,

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